

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 25 were pending in the above-identified patent application when least examined. Claims 1 – 5, 7 and 23 – 25 were rejected in the Office Action dated December 9, 2004. Claims 8 – 22 were allowed. Claim 6 was objected to. In response, Applicants are amending Claim 1 and canceling Claims 6, and 23 – 25. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

In section 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 – 2 and 4 – 5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Bajaj et al. However, in section 10 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 6 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Accordingly, Applicants are amending claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 6 and therefore submit that claim 1, and its dependent claims, are now allowable. Therefore, Applicants request withdrawal of these rejections.

In section 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 – 2, 4, 23, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Treur et al. However, in section 10 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 6 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Accordingly, Applicants are amending claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 6 and therefore submit that claim 1, and its dependent claims, are now allowable. Further, Applicants are canceling claims 23 and 25. Therefore, Applicants request withdrawal of these rejections.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In section 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 3 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Treur in view of Cesna et al. However, in section 10 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 6 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Accordingly, Applicants are amending claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 6 and therefore submit that claim 3 is now allowable

due to its dependency to an allowable base claim, as discussed above. Further, Applicants are canceling claim 24. Therefore, Applicants request withdrawal of these rejections.

In section 8 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Treur in view of Sandhu et al. However, in section 10 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 6 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Accordingly, Applicants are amending claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 6 and therefore submit that claim 7 is now allowable due to its dependency to an allowable base claim, as discussed above. Therefore, Applicants request withdrawal of this rejection.

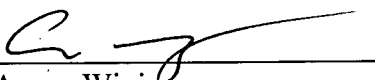
Allowable Claims

In section 9, the Examiner indicated the allowability of claims 8 – 22. Further, the Examiner objected to claim 6. Claim 6 has been cancelled and its limitations incorporated into claim 1.

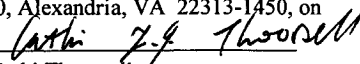
Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case as only allowable claims remain pending herein.

Respectfully submitted,
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